

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/807,001

Examiner

R. Alexander Smith

Applicant(s)

RIBI ET AL.

Art Unit

2859

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on October 30, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18, 20-35, 42 and 43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.132. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephonic interview with Mr. Colton on January 19, 2007.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the claims:**

Claim 18: In line 6 of paragraph d) "plunger" has been changed to --indicator--.

Claim 35: In line 13 of paragraph g) "plunger" has been changed to --indicator--.

#### ***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 1-18, 20-35, 42 and 43.

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For independent claim 1 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a thermal indicator comprising

a thermopolymeric switching medium contained within the body, and that yields to permit release of said indicating means to the second position, whereby the thermopolymeric switching medium undergoes a thermal transition from a solid phase to a liquid phase at the predetermined temperature

in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 2-17 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 1, render the dependent claims allowable.

For independent claim 18 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a thermal indicator comprising

an organic thermopolymeric switching medium contained within the body, and that yields to permit release of said indicator, whereby the thermopolymeric switching medium undergoes a thermal transition from a solid phase to a liquid phase at the predetermined temperature

in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 20-34 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 18, render the dependent claims allowable.

For independent claim 35 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a thermal indicator comprising

an organic thermopolymeric switching medium contained within the body, and that yields to permit release of said indicator, whereby the thermopolymeric switching medium undergoes a thermal transition from a solid phase to a liquid phase at the predetermined temperature in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 42 and 43 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 35, render the dependent claims allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited in PTO-892 disclose related indicators or components thereof.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Alexander Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2251. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alexander Smith', with a stylized, cursive script.

R. Alexander Smith  
Primary Examiner  
Technology Center 2800

RAS  
January 19, 2007